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The Sky Line Trail

SKY LINE TRAIL HIKERS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

BULLETIN No. 48 MAY 1946



MOUNT NILES AND ANGEL'S STAIR FALLS, LITTLE YOHO (*Eaton Cromwell*)

Sky Line Trail Hikers

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The Sky Line Trail
SKY LINE TRAIL HIKERS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES



(*F. L. Laidlaw*)

SYDNEY R. VALLANCE

Heigho! For The Little Yoho

By SYDNEY R. VALLANCE

THE locale chosen for the 1946 Camp can hardly be surpassed for the grandeur and solitude of its setting, and it is truly sky-line, high-line—yes, and alpine. The get-ting-there is a thrill-packed delight and the being-there unforgettable. Let us in fancy explore this enticing place and the way we must go to get there.

For those who journey by train, Field is the jumping-off place. For those who travel by car or bus, departure is made from the main highway three miles east of Field. But whether we go by train or bus, soon after passing the Great Divide going west we can look from our high vantage point into the Valley of the Yoho to the north—an ordinary mountain valley at first glance with a gateway of forested cliffs, and extending back to a shining whiteness which is the Wapta Icefield terminating in the Yoho Glacier.

From beneath the cliff on the right the transcontinental trains emerge from the spiral tunnel which brings them down the mountainside. Leaving the highway we can drive up the valley for seven miles. It is a good road but a startling one as it winds, ever-rising, skirting the foaming rapids of the Yoho River, with high cliffs on its other side. Yet how different to that first trail.

We listened one summer evening to the late Tom Wilson telling of his discovery of this valley in 1884 and how he cut the first trail through the densest forest and a tangle of fallen timber unaware of the wonders that were to meet his astonished gaze.

"ONLY THE BEGINNING"

The motor road ends at Yoho Lodge, opposite a waterfall of unusual beauty—Takkakaw—nearly 1500 feet high, which has its source in the Daly Glacier. Of the thousands of people who drive up here, so very few go any farther, and that is a pity, for this is only the beginning, and not the end, of an alpine fairyland, whether we continue along the main valley or take the "high-line" trail.

We prefer to take the high-line going in because the steepest part of the trail is at the start, whereas by continuing along the main valley the ascent to the higher trail comes after some miles. And so, to miss nothing, for both trails are wonderful, we take the low-line coming out.

From Yoho Lodge then, the trail zig-zags from the start for 1500 feet right opposite the waterfall, and then, though at times rocky, takes a gentler course. Now we can see the Daly Glacier tongue, which not so very long ago filled the great bowl above the falls to the very edge of the cliff.

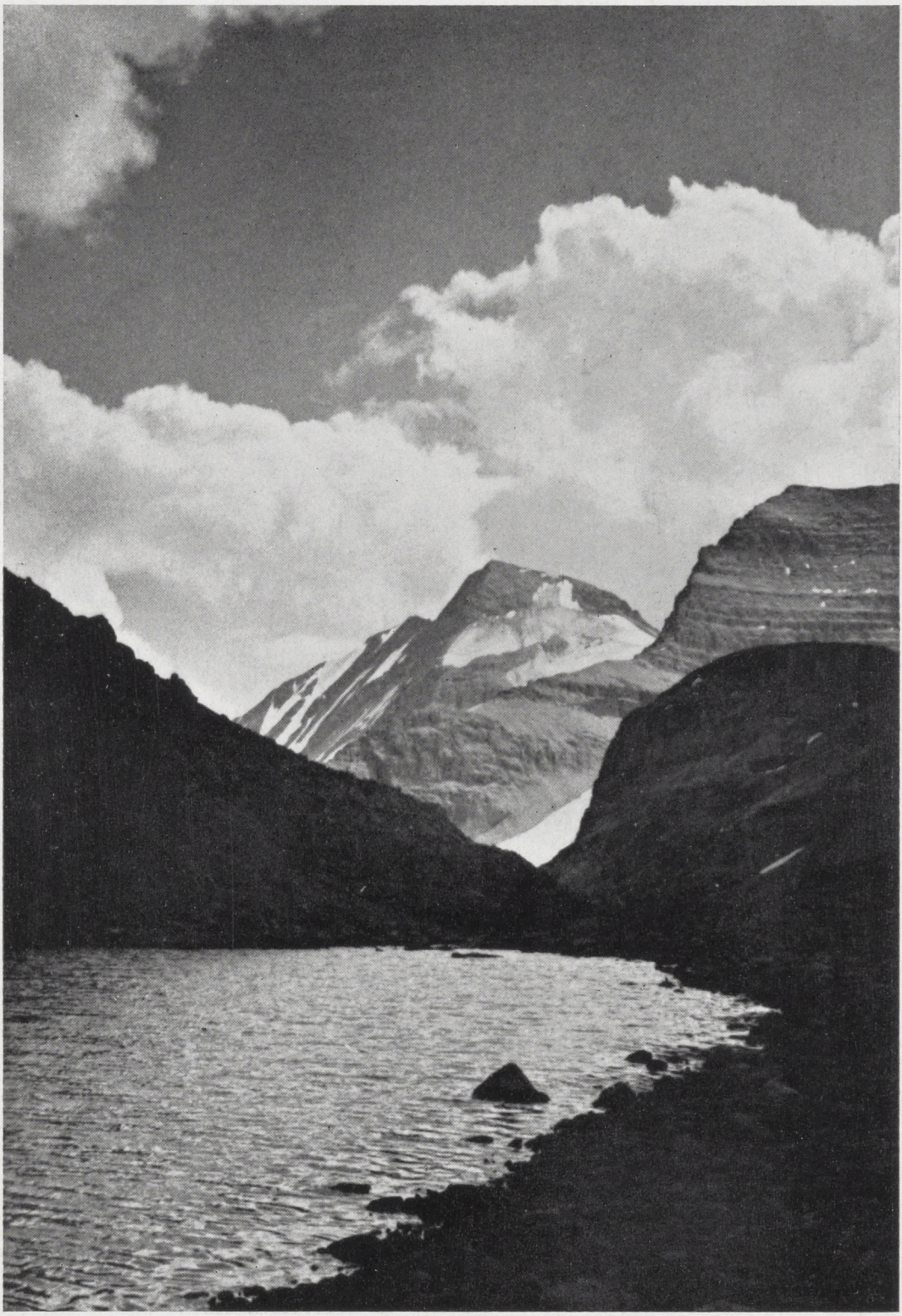
The fairly level trail alternates first through trees and then across open rocky slopes threaded by tumbling streams, until a long though gentle hill brings its reward in a rocky look-out point.

The air is clear and crisp (we hope) and we are tempted to linger. Here is the photographer's opportunity, for the little promontory affords an ideal foreground for the amazing panorama. Here too, in early summer, patches of late snow in the little dells are pierced by countless avalanche lilies.

STANLEY MITCHELL HUT

So far our high trail has paralleled the main valley, but now there is a bifurcation and we swing away diagonally to the left, first gently rising and then on an almost level line at 7,000 feet to the tributary valley of the Little Yoho River. A foot-bridge takes us over the river at the upper end of the valley to an ideal camping place.

(*Continued on Page 6*)



(*Georgia Engelhard*)

KIWETINOK LAKE AND MOUNT VICE-PRESIDENT

(*Continued from Page 4*)

Here, in the clearing by the stream, stands the "Stanley Mitchell Hut" of the Alpine Club of Canada as a memorial to one of its founders and long-time secretary. The facilities of this hut have been placed at our disposal for the period of our camp.

It is a pleasant day's walk. Going very slowly and lunching on the way, camp is reached during the afternoon.

Involuntarily we lift up our eyes to the "hills" around. To the south Mts. President and Vice-President with President Pass between. Then Emerald Pass and Mt. Marpole looking over to Emerald Lake.

At the head of the valley, Mt. Kerr and Kiwetinok Pass, and along the north side of the valley Kiwetinok Peak, Mt. Pollinger, Mt. McArthur, Isolated Peak and The Whaleback. Then looking down the valley and across the main Yoho, Mt. Balfour, the Waputik Icefield and Mts. Niles and Daly.

"WHERE TO GO"

We want to make the most of our time. Now, where shall we go? Here are our suggestions:

1. *To Kiwetinok Pass and Lake.* This is a lovely walk. Crossing the river by the footbridge we follow a trail which takes us above the canyon behind our camp, through alpine meadows, following the stream all the way to the pass at a little over 8,000 feet. Only thirty yards this side of the pass is Kiwetinok Lake, often partly frozen even in July.

On the other side of the pass is the beautiful valley of the Kiwetinok River, which flows into the Amiskwi. We are of course high above tree-line, but it is pleasant to picnic by the lake or among the boulders on Mt. Kerr. From the pass it is not far to the summit of Mt. Kerr, which is practically a walking climb, and the very energetic ones can lunch on top, but this extension of the planned walk to the pass should only be included with the consent of the leader of the party, and undertaken under a leader he or she approves.

In the cairn on top is the record of the first ascent of the peak by Edward Whymper and his famous guides in 1901. Rare alpine flowers are to be found about the pass and there is an abundance of purple saxifrage



STANLEY MITCHELL HUT—LITTLE YOHO (*Georgia Englehard*)



(*Eaton Cromwell*)

MOUNT DES POILUS, FROM WHALEBACK TRAIL

and moss campion among the rocks on the mountain.

2. *Along the Whaleback.* This makes a delightful day. First we pick our way up a steep wooded slope behind the hut, which brings us out on a beautiful alpland, dotted with flowers and threaded by streams. We loiter here, for in the morning sunshine the water sparkles, the shadows are beautiful, the air bracing, the views magnificent, and one is glad to be alive.

It is not a long way to the Whaleback, and leaving the high meadows behind we skirt the base of a moraine composed largely of glacial silt now hard and smooth as concrete, and then a scramble up a grassy slope brings us to the ridge, called the Whaleback because its outline so resembles the back of a huge whale. Now we look down on the great Wapta Icefield to the north and to the snow peaks of Mts. Habel and Collie.

Behind us is the glacier tongue which sweeps round Isolated Peak, and a stone's throw from us Isolated Peak itself. On its top, too, is Whymper's record along with that of Sir James Outram.

BEST PART OF HIKE

The walk along the ridge, a mile or so long, is an exhilarating experience, and the best part of the hike. Instead of going back the way we came, we can descend from the end of the ridge by grass slopes to the Valley of the Little Yoho and walk up the trail to camp, thus completing a round trip. On these slopes we found a large white moss campion—a very rare find, we thought.

3. *To Lake Celeste.* This is an easy walk along a good trail of easy grade. From the hut we follow the stream by the gradually descending trail down the valley—the Little Yoho Valley—to its junction with the main valley.

Here the Little Yoho River plunges over the cliffs to form the Laughing Falls and then loses itself in the turbulence of the main Yoho River. Crossing the bridge above the falls our trail turns to the right and

(*Continued on Page 8*)

(*Continued from Page 7*)

takes us southerly, still on the high-line, parallelling the main valley. It leads us through a lovely forest; yellow violets are on either side, and mossy banks.

Lake Celeste, so aptly named, is still and beautiful. Hidden there in the forest, 1500 feet above the lower valley, we are tempted to bathe. The water is warm, and afterwards lunch is delectable.

The distance from camp is between three and four miles, and the lake lies on the continuation of the high-line trail from which we branch off when first going in.

4. *To Twin Falls.* This is a walk for an easy day. On reaching the bridge above the Laughing Falls at the bottom of the Little Yoho Valley, instead of turning to the right as to Lake Celeste, we turn to the left.

From here the trail is fairly level all the way at about 6,000 feet. It passes close by Marpole Lake, gorgeously blue, and there is fishing here. About three miles brings us to Twin Falls cabin at the foot of the famous falls, and here is a splendid place to picnic.

We shall always remember our first visit to Twin Falls. We walked the full length of the lower valley to the glacier, then up to Twin Falls, and back by Lake Celeste and the high-line. It was a long walk of nineteen miles with a good deal of uphill, but the constant surprises, new beauties at every turn, and the magnificent high-line views, made it the most charming of our walks that season.

We had risen before daylight, breakfasted, and driven sixty-five miles to Takkakaw Falls. Then adjusting our packs we were on the trail at 9 a.m. oblivious of the fact that someone else had planned to make the same journey that day.

As we approached the cabin or teahouse, we were rather bewildered when the occupants rushed out expectantly, warm welcome in their smiles, their faces changing to obvious disappointment at sight of us, which wasn't so surprising. They explained that they were expecting the King of Siam and his party who were following in our footsteps that day, though on horseback.

Seeing that our presence was embarrassing to them, we expressed our regret that we were unable to await the royal guests, and much relieved, they waved us on our way.

The time to leave camp and take our homeward way will come all too soon, and instead of retracing our steps over the way by which we came, we can follow the trail we have described to Twin Falls and from there descend to the main valley, or cut through the woods from above Laughing Falls and descend to the Yoho Valley there.

On the way down the Yoho Valley to Takkakaw we should not fail to observe the signs that tell us that Point Lace Falls—a delicate resemblance to a point-lace veil—and the broken cascades of the Angels' Stairs are to be seen only a matter of yards from the trail. And if we approach Duchesnay Lake quietly we are almost sure to find an antlered moose there.

On this trail too, raspberries, strawberries and blueberries are very plentiful.

Let us hope for good weather, and then an exciting and memorable time is sure.

Genial Herb Sampson has been honored by election as honorary president of the Alpine Club of Canada.

One of our noble Sky Line Hikers was arguing with a dumbbell from the Trail Riders, concerning the question of what is man's best friend.

"I tell you," shouted the pedestrian, "a dog is man's best friend!"

"Dogs have their points," begrudged the equestrian, "but, just the same, I say a horse is man's best friend!"

"You and your horses!" came back the Sky Liner, triumphantly. "Who wants to come home and have a horse jump up into his lap?"

Two hikers, camping at Egypt Lake, wrapped themselves tightly in their blankets, seeking to evade the mosquitoes.

Finally one stuck his nose out, to get a breath of air, and happened to see a firefly. "It's no use, Bill," he told his companion, "We can't get away from 'em: they're out hunting us with lanterns!"



LITTLE YOHO VALLEY AND ISOLATED PEAK



MOUNT MARPOLE AND EMERALD GLACIER

(Georgia Englehard photos)

Skyliners to Gather at Field

BECAUSE of crowded hotel conditions at Banff, and because so many of last year's Hikers objected to the over-night layover at Banff in order to have their duffle ready for the pack train, your Trail Committee is setting up a different system for the August Hike into Little Yoho this year.

The gathering place will be at Field, where the Brewster Transport Company will provide buses for the ride to Yoho, where Hikers will dismount to take up the Trail. Duffle will be trucked to the start and packed in from Yoho by Claude Brewster's trusted minions.

For the big number who will be coming from Calgary or points east, Canadian Pacific train No. 3 leaves Calgary at 9.15 a.m. and reaches Field at 2 p.m., Mountain Standard time. This means that there can be little delay in getting under way, as the hike itself will take the better part of the afternoon.

Hikers arriving from the Pacific Coast, however, should take train No. 4 out of Vancouver, or intermediate points. This train arrives at Field at 3.10 p.m., Mountain time, and guides will remain behind the party from the East to make sure any such late comers arrive safely in camp.

Duffle will have to be ready, as Claude Brewster, our outfitter, is making a considerable concession in favour of convenience to hikers.

The date of the start—in case you've forgotten—is August 2nd, and the Trail, ably described on other pages of this Bulletin by that veteran hiker and alpinist Sydney R. Vallance, is one which will prove attractive to all.

AN APOLOGY

The Secretary-Treasurer, who is also Official Editor of the Bulletin, wishes to apologize for the late arrival of the Bulletin, and for the fact that no Bulletin has been issued since last November.

Owing to a reorganization of his department, the Editor was called on to make an extensive tour of the Middle West last Winter, and was travelling extensively during the Spring, and on May 1st left Winnipeg to take up a new post with his company in New York.

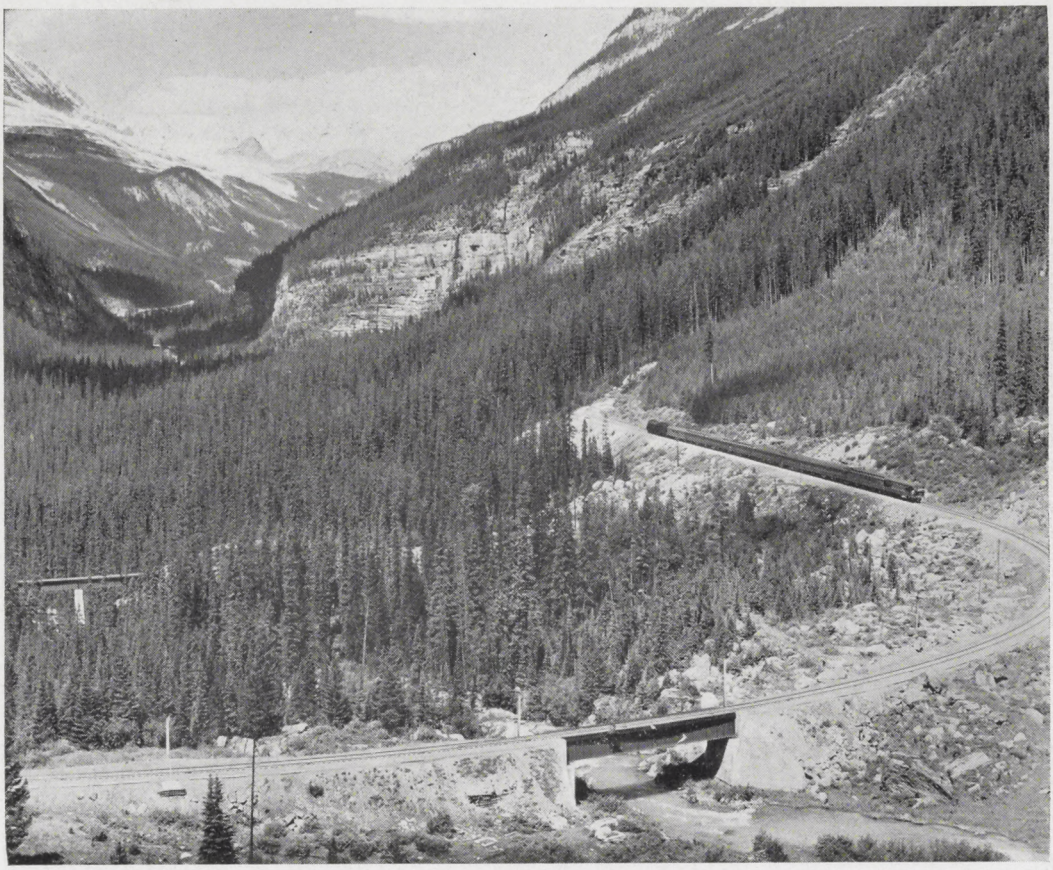
Due to these constant interruptions the important business of editing the Bulletins naturally suffered, and in the present case only the timely "pinch-hitting" of Fred Laidlaw has made their publication possible.

It is hoped that it will be possible to put the Bulletins on a new footing next season.

Many enquiries have reached the Secretary's office asking about Bulletins, many Hikers assuming that they had not received some of the issues, which, of course, were not published.



VALLEY OF THE KICKING HORSE RIVER



FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE YOHO FROM THE RAILWAY



MOTORISTS TOO, ENJOY THE YOHO



HIKERS—1935 VINTAGE—AT YOHO CAMP



FISH ABOUND IN THE LAKES ON YOHO TRAIL



EMERALD LAKE AND MOUNT BURGESS



YOHO VALLEY BUNGALOW CAMP

SKYLINE OFFICIAL MUSICIAN RETURNS



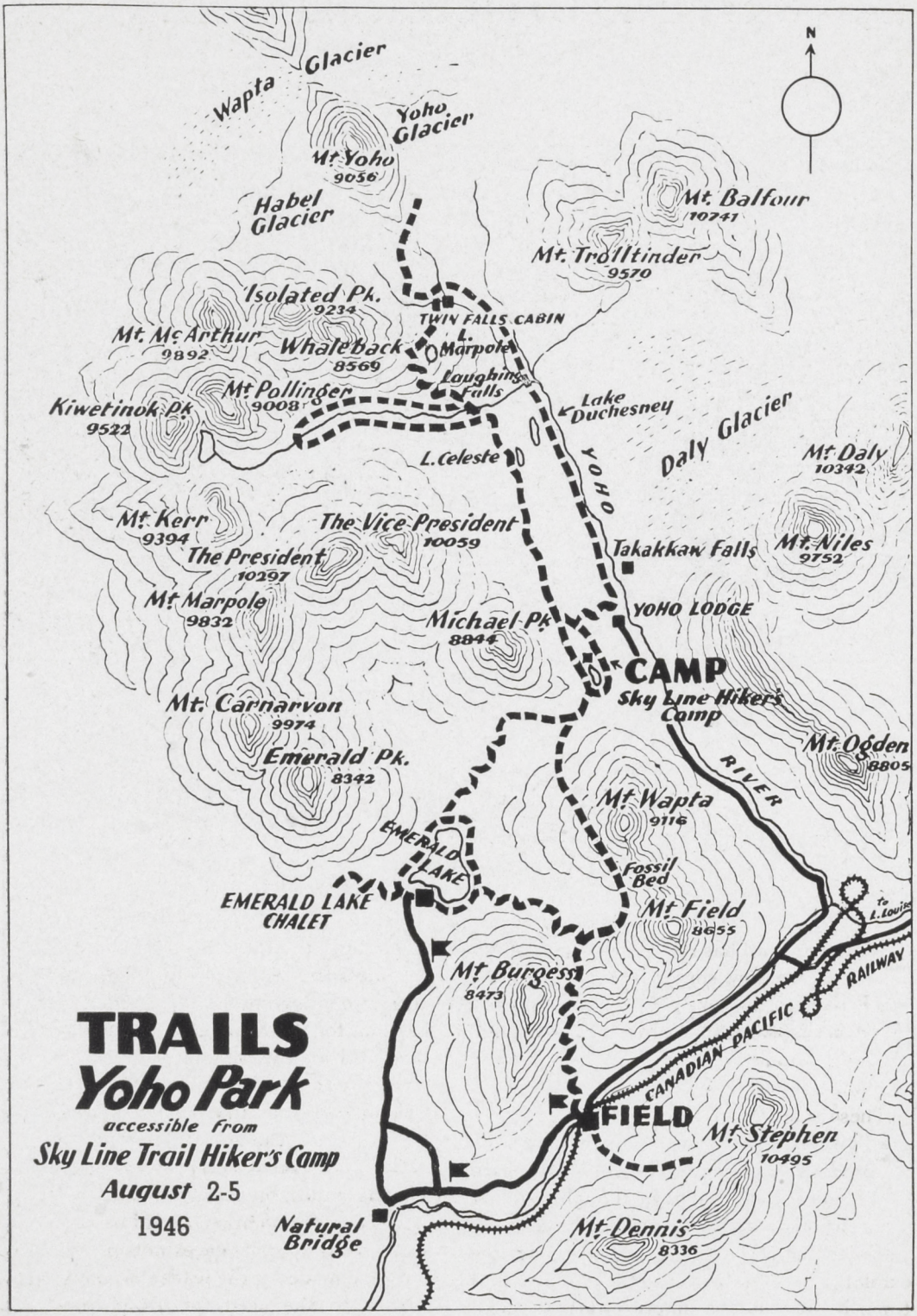
GOOD NEWS FOR HIKERS

Allen Crawford, official musician, who has been with the United States Army at Prince Rupert, B.C., in late years, recently wrote your secretary-treasurer saying he was through with all that and would like to resume his place with the Hikers.

Nothing could have been better news, since Allen is an old favourite and his gifted accordion has given much pleasure along the trails and around the camp fires.

For campfire sing-songs Allen will be an inspiring accompanist, and latest reports are that Jean Stewart will be on hand in her accustomed role of song leader and mistress of ceremonies.

It looks like a grand hike and a grand turnout.


N
Wapta Glacier
Yoho Glacier
Mt. Yoho 9036
Habel Glacier
Mt. Balfour 10741
Mt. Trolltinder 9570
Isolated Pk. 9234
TWIN FALLS CABIN
L. Marpole
Mt. McArthur 9892
Whaleback 8569
Laughing Falls
Mt. Pollinger 9008
Kiwetinok Pk. 9522
Lake Duchesney
Daly Glacier
L. Celeste
YOHO
Mt. Daly 10342
Mt. Kerr 9394
The Vice President 10059
The President 10297
Takakkaw Falls
Mt. Niles 9752
Mt. Marpole 9832
Michael Pk. 8844
YOHO LODGE
CAMP
Sky Line Hiker's Camp
Mt. Carnarvon 9974
Emerald Pk. 8342
Mt. Ogden 8805
RIVER
Mt. Wapta 9116
EMERALD LAKE
Fossil Bed
EMERALD LAKE CHALET
Mt. Field 8655
to L. Louise
Mt. Burgess 8473
RAILWAY
CANADIAN PACIFIC
FIELD
Mt. Stephen 10495
Natural Bridge
Mt. Dennis 8336
TRAILS
Yoho Park
accessible from
Sky Line Trail Hiker's Camp
August 2-5
1946



HIGH LAKE AND MT. BALFOUR—LITTLE YOHO

Some Ethics of the Trail

By SYDNEY R. VALLANCE

EVEN the trail has its ethics. The observance of a few simple rules can add so much to the pleasure of a hike, while their non-observance may disturb the harmony of what should always be a happy and thrilling outing.

These rules (like the British Constitition) are "unwritten" and have been wordlessly adopted by experienced hikers. Disregard for them is almost always thoughtless and unintentional, and because each year we welcome some who are experiencing the exhilaration of a Skyline Hike for the first time, it may not be inappropriate to mention some of them.

The one who is placed in charge of a party is the leader of the party on the trail, and no one should pass and precede him or her unless invited to do so. The route he chooses to follow should be accepted without question, for the responsibility for the route taken and for the welfare of every member of the party is his. The pace should be accommodated to that of the slowest one in the party, though if one lags behind unduly and retards the progress of the rest someone should be detailed to stay with the lagging one, for no hiker should be left alone. Decisions as to rest places and picnic spots should be made by the leader, who is always alert as to the needs of his party. The whole party should stay together and return to camp together if possible.

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(*Continued from page 17*)

No litter, such as film wrappers, sandwich papers and orange peel should be scattered along the trail or at the resting places. All such refuse should be deposited under stones or in holes, where it is out of sight. It can truly be said that human beings are often less tidy that the animals themselves. Have you noticed how the marmot, the gopher and the pika express their resentment at the disregard of this rule by a special whistle—three long and one short? Neither have I.

If any two or more hikers wish to make a special excursion on their own from camp they should without fail apprise the presisident of their plans, so that in the event of mishap he will know in what direction to despatch a relieving party.

All members of the party should recognize that the one desire of the leader is to get the fullest enjoyment possible from the excursion for every one under his charge, and should respect his wishes and decisions accordingly.

If these simple rules are borne in mind, utmost pleasure and happy comradeship will make each outing a memorable one.



REFLECTIONS OF LAST YEAR'S CAMP



COLEMAN'S CAMPFIRE CAPERS



ON LAKE O'HARA'S MARGE

Other Hikes into the Yoho

By FRED L. LAIDLAW

OUR camp this year will be the third to be held by the Sky Line Hikers in the Yoho country.

The Hikers' first jaunt into the Yoho was in 1934. Perhaps people who are constantly referring to "the good old days" are right. On the other hand it may be that Hikers in those ancient times were soft, comfort-loving souls. That is a matter of opinion. At any rate the Skyline Hikers of '34 slept in beds while on the hike, moving from bungalow camp to bungalow camp or cabin camp, whichever came next on their itinerary.

They commenced the 1934 hike with an excellent luncheon at Emerald Lake Chalet (this from the records, in case any old-timer is inclined to scoff). They no doubt had fine table linen, gleaming silver and sparkling glasses as well. The menu, too, is on record, doubtlessly reported by that stickler for detail and hiker par excellence, Dr. John Murray Gibbon.

The files show that, following this sumptuous repast, the Hikers took up their alpenstocks and mounted the high line trail for Yoho Lodge. They covered much the same trail as ours of this summer. L. A. Sloper's account in the *Christian Science Monitor*, of the trail that day, has this to say: "Your hobnailed boots weigh about fifty pounds each when you set off; their weight increases in algebraic progression until you arrive.

"Learning and enduring, we persevered on that first day until we had propelled our boots up the long trail and down the other side of the mountain. I think of hiking now in terms of boot cartage. It's reward is not in the so-called exercise, but in the lights and colors of the icy peaks around you, in the cascades you pass and the torrents you ford, in the lichen and heather and ferns and columbine you pause to examine. For you don't have to hurry. There's time and enough to spare."

So they arrived at Yoho Valley Camp, where Mr. Sloper says, "Mrs. McAndless, our excellent hostess, had beds for all of us, so that no time was lost in attacking supper."

Next day the Hikers of '34 went on to Twin Falls Cabin, and the Little Yoho. The anglers tried their luck in Marpole Lake.

Twin Falls, Takakaw, Whaleback, Habel Glacier, Mount Niles and Mount Daly, these among the many beauty spots they visited, are also the points which Sky Line Trail Hikers will visit this summer.

The Hikers of '38 were a hardier lot. They camped at Summit Lake, a point halfway between Yoho Lodge and Emerald Lake. From that location their trails led them into the Yoho. Michael Peak, Mounts President and Vice-President, beautiful Lake Celeste, Laughing Falls and Twin Falls Cabin they visited on the outward trail, and Lake Duchesney, Takakaw Falls on the homeward trek to camp.

The bulletin recording the activities of the 1938 hike pays vivid tribute to the beauties of the High Line trail. It also contains a list of place names which may be of interest to the Hikers of 1946.

YOHO PLACE NAMES

(from "Place Names in the Southern Rockies, by James White, F.R.C.S.)

Yoho—Cree Indian word, signifying "Astonishment."

Mt. Kiwetinok (Pass and Creek) — Cree Indian word, signifying "on the North Side" (of the Kicking Horse).

Mt. Kerr—Named after Robert Kerr, former passenger traffic manager, C.P.R.

Mt. President—Named after Lord Shaughnessy, then president.

Mt. Vice-President—Named after D. McNicoll, then vice-president, C.P.R.

Mt. Habel—Named after Dr. Jean Habel, celebrated Alpinist. Renamed "des Poilus."

Mt. Pollinger—Named after Joseph Pollinger, Swiss guide, who made first ascents of President, Vice-President and other peaks.

Mt. McArthur—Named after J. J. McArthur, D.L.S., International Boundary Surveys, Dept. of Interior.

Mt. Whaleback—Named from its shape.

Mt. Daly (and Glacier)—Named after the late Judge Charles F. Daly, president, American Geographical Society (1864-99).

Waputik—Stoney Indian for "White Goat."

Wapta—Stoney Indian for "River."

Mt. Balfour—Named after John Hutton Balfour (1808-84), Scottish botanist.

Mt. Trollinder — Norwegian for "Witch's peak"; so named from its resemblance to a mountain of the same name in the Valley of Romsdalen.

Mount Niles—Named after Prof. W. H. Niles, president of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Takakaw — Indian for "It's Wonderful"; name suggested by Sir William Van Horne.

Michael Peak — Named after Prof. A. Michael, of Boston, who made first ascents of Mounts Victoria, Lefroy and Gordon.

Mount Burgess—Named after the late A. M. Burgess, Deputy Minister of the Interior.

Field—Named after Cyrus West Field (1819-92), promoter of the first Atlantic cable, who visited the locality in 1884.

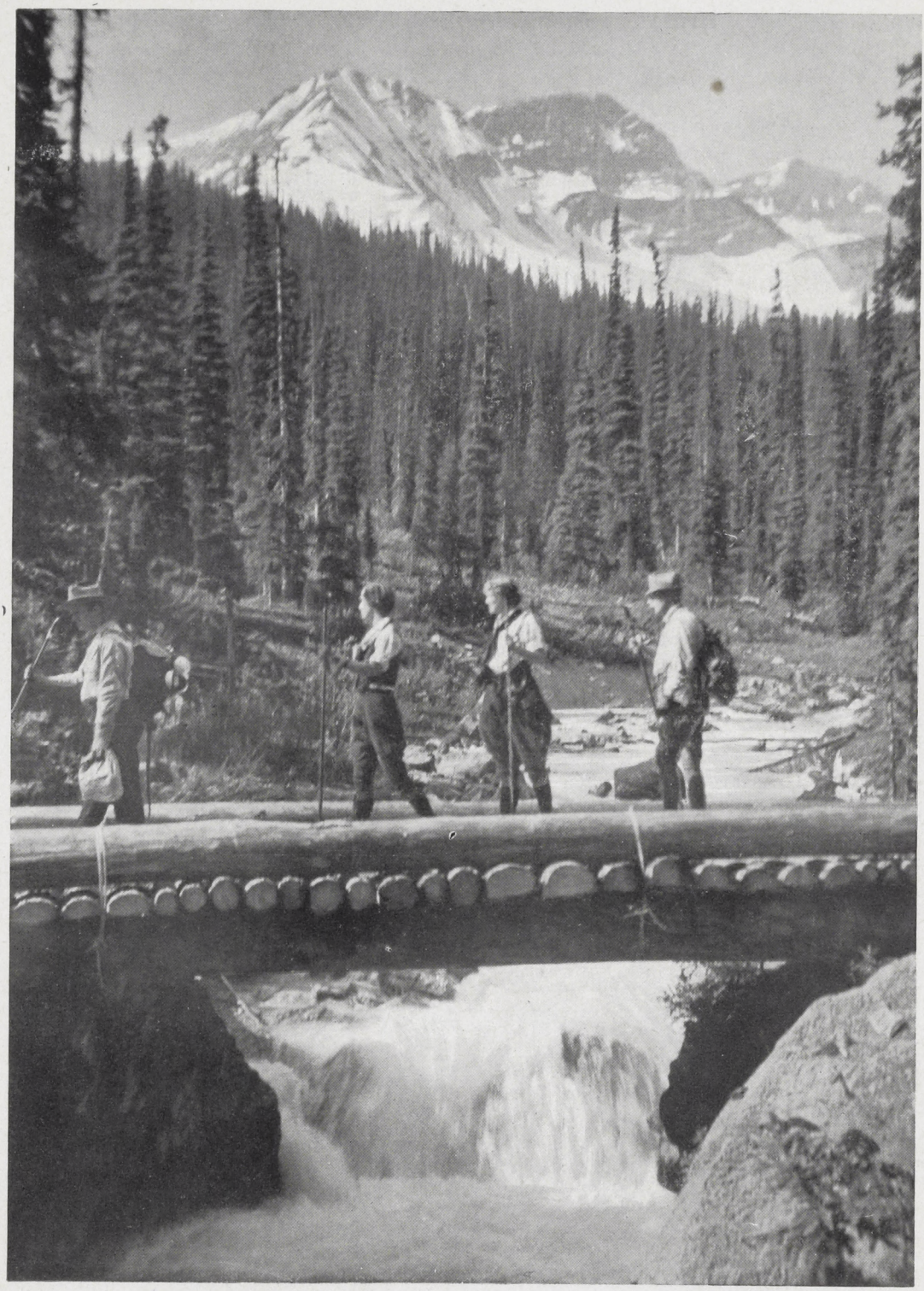
Duchesnay (Mountain, Lake and Pass)—Named after the late E. J. Duchesnay, assistant general superintendent, C.P.R.

Marpole (Mountain and Lake) — Named after R. Marpole, formerly general executive assistant, C.P.R.

Kicking Horse River—Named by the Indians commemorating an accident to Dr. James Hector, geologist of the Palliser Expedition, while surveying the pass through which the river runs.

ANGLER'S TRY THEIR LUCK





CROSSING THE LITTLE YOHO (*R. H. Palerski photo*)

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Vaux, Jr., Mrs. George, Bryn Mawr, Pa.
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Berkley, Mrs. G. St. L., Karachi, India
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Lum, Mrs. Frederick H., Jr., Chatham, N.J.
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Sieburth, Miss Louie, Vancouver, B.C.
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Stevenson, Mrs. O. J., Guelph, Ont.
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Ward, Samuel, Banff, Alta.
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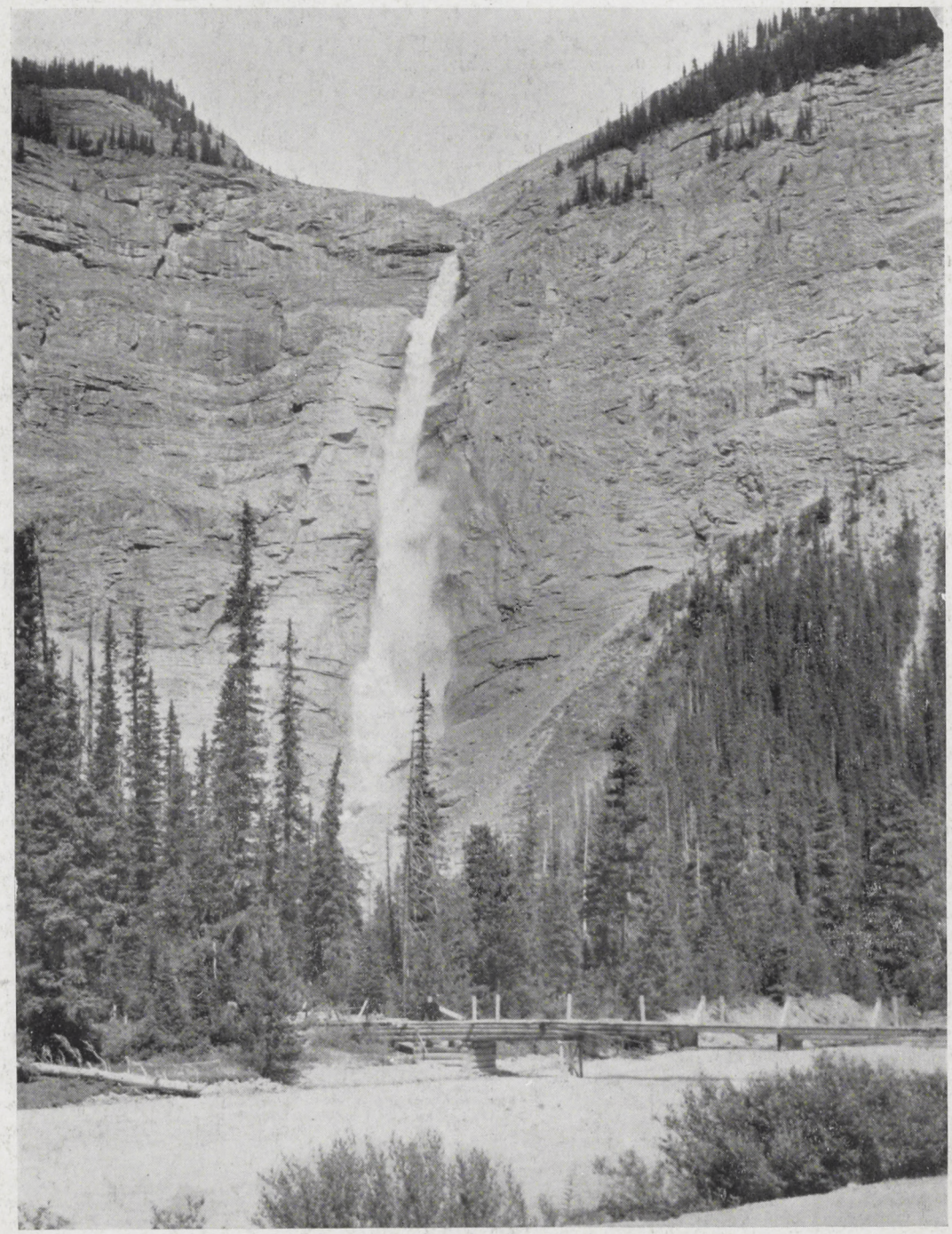
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Wilson, Miss Gladys, Edmonton, Alta.
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Whyte, Miss Dorothy V., Lynn Creek, B.C.
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Wurzburger, Mrs. Paul D., Cleveland Heights, O.
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Bond, Mrs. George B. R., Calgary, Alta.
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